

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 069282 TOSEC 030078  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-PSEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 069282 TOSEC 030078

NODIS

WH FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM TEL AVIV DTD 29 MAR 1977  
DTG O 291214Z MAR 77 QTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2185

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: TWO NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN SINAI

REF: STATE 065382

1. I CALLED ON AVINERI THIS MORNING AND MADE THE POINTS  
IN REFTEL. HIS AIDE, MOSHE ARAD, AND MOSHE RAVIV WERE  
ALSO PRESENT.

2. AVINERI HEARD ME OUT AND PROMISED THAT WE WOULD GET  
THE PARTICULARS WE REQUESTED ABOUT THE TWO SINAI SETTLE-  
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MENTS. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT THE SETTLEMENTS  
SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
VISIT AND SAID THAT MY DEMARCHE WOULD BE "PASSED ON."

3. HE THEN SAID THAT, WITHOUT PREJUDICING THEIR  
RESPONSE, HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FEW PRELIMINARY  
OBSERVATIONS. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE GOI'S POLICY ON

SETTLEMENTS, WHICH IS NOT NEW, IS CARRIED OUT WITHIN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "VERY LIMITED PARAMETERS." IT WAS SOLELY CONSTRUED IN TERMS OF SECURITY AND DEFENSIBLE BORDERS. BECAUSE THIS WAS THE CASE, HE CONTINUED, THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN A LOT OF FLAK FROM ISRAELI GROUPS WHO WISHED TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS AT PLACES OF THEIR CHOOSING. IT WAS PAINFUL TO TELL JEWS THERE ARE PLACES THEY CANNOT LIVE IN THE HISTORIC LAND OF ISRAEL. THE ARMY HAD BEEN USED TO PREVENT SETTLEMENTS AND THIS PROVOKED CONFRONTATIONS, AS WE KNEW.

4. AVINERI'S SECOND POINT WAS THAT THE PARAMETERS HE HAD MENTIONED WERE PART OF THE LABOR PARTY PLATFORM AND OF POLICY TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED. HE BELIEVED THAT TWO SINAI SETTLEMENTS I HAD MENTIONED WERE WITHIN THE LIMITS SET BY THE GOVERNMENT.

5. HE THEN COMMENTED THAT OF COURSE OUR UNHAPPINESS WITH ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS BEYOND THE GREEN LINE HAD BEEN MADE KNOWN TO THE GOI SEVERAL TIMES. "OUR ANSWERS ARE ALWAYS THE SAME," HE ADDED.

6. AS TO THE EGYPTIANS, AVINERI SAID HE THOUGHT THEIR UN INITIATIVE HAD BEEN TAKEN COMPLETELY INDEPENDENTLY OF ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY OR OF WHAT IT WAS DOING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THESE HAD MERELY BEEN "CONVENIENT PRETEXTS." CERTAINLY ISRAEL DOES NOT SEE THEM AS IMPEDIMENTS TO PEACE, NOR DOES IT BELIEVE THAT ITS SETTLEMENTS POLICY IS THE REASON THERE HAS NOT  
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BEEN PEACE FOR 28 YEARS (SIC). ON THE OTHER HAND, ISRAELI HAVE NOTED THE ARAB BOYCOTT, THE RAISING OF THE PROPAGANDA LEVEL BY THE EGYPTIANS, AND SADAT'S "UNHELPFUL" STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE PNC. THERE HAD BEEN INTERNAL GOI DISCUSSIONS WHETHER THESE HAD VIOLATED THE "SPIRIT OF SINAI II," BUT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED NOT TO RAISE THEM FORMALLY WITH US AT THIS TIME SO AS NOT TO COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS.

7. WHEN AVINERI HAD COMPLETED THESE "PRELIMINARY REMARKS" I SAID THEY WERE AWARE THAT WE DID NOT ACCEPT THEIR POSITION ON THE SETTLEMENTS ISSUE AND I WOULD RETURN AT ANY TIME TO GET THE PROMISED PARTICULARS OF THE TWO SETTLEMENTS ANNOUNCED MARCY 11.

8. COMMENT: LITTLE GIVE WAS EVIDENT ON THIS ISSUE, NOR SHOULD ANY HAVE REALISTICALLY BEEN EXPECTED SEVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION. NEVERTHELESS THIS APPROACH WAS USEFUL IN BRINGING HOME TO THE GOI THAT WE ARE NOT

OVERLOOKING OUR CONDONING BY OUR SILENCE WHAT THEY ARE  
DOING IN REGARD TO SETTLEMENTS.  
DUNNIGAN UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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